

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 15970 01 OF 02 061403Z

41

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 SSO-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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O 061354Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6288

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15970

WHITE HOUSE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND PRESS
SECRETARY; STATE FOR S/PRS; USIA FOR IPS/PE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, N.A.)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER ITN INTERVIEW -
LONDON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1976, WITH RORY
MCPHERSON

Q: MR. VICE PRESIDENT, HOW DO YOU RATE MR. FORD'S
CHANCES IN THE ELECTION NOW, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF
MR. BUTZ'S ENFORCED RESIGNATION?

A: I DON'T REALLY THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE A MAJOR
FACTOR. I THINK IT'S A TRAGEDY FOR THE BLACKS IN OUR
COUNTRY AND FOR HIM. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT I
DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE A FACTOR IN THE
ELECTION. I THINK THAT MR. FORD WILL WIN AND I THINK
PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE IN THE LAST ANALYSIS PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO VOTE ON THE BASIS OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE
AND I THINK WE'VE GOT THAT IN PRESIDENT FORD. I THINK
THERE IS ENOUGH PEOPLE UNCERTAIN ABOUT MR. CARTER,
BUT THAT'S HIS (INAUDIBLE).

Q: WELL WHAT'S YOUR REACTION FOR INSTANCE TO MR. CARTER.
DO YOU FOR EXAMPLE SHARE SENATOR DOLE'S VIEW THAT HE'S
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PAGE 02 LONDON 15970 01 OF 02 061403Z

WEIRD?

A: WELL, THAT'S A SELECTION OF WORDS. I HAVE BEEN IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT FOR 36 YEARS AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I WAS A GOVERNOR FOR 15 YEARS OF ONE OF OUR STATES AND HE WAS GOVERNOR AND I KNEW HIM AS GOVERNOR. I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I HAVE DIFFICULTY IN FOLLOWING THE LOGIC OF HIS POSITIONS ON GOVERNMENTAL QUESTIONS - FOR INSTANCE IN THOSE SO-CALLED DEBATES - OR WHERE HE TAKES A POSITION ON A ISSUE AND THEN MAYBE FOUR OR FIVE WEEKS LATER HE TAKES ANOTHER POSITION AND THEN LATER HE MAY SAY "WELL, WHEN I'M PRESIDENT THEN I MIGHT HAVE A DIFFERENT ONE", AND I THINK THAT KIND OF THING IS GOING TO CREATE FOR THE PEOPLE A SENSE OF UNCERTAINTY.

Q: WELL DO YOU NOT FEEL THAT PERHAPS THE SAME MIGHT BE SAID LOOKING AT VARIOUS DEBATES THAT MR. FORD... THAT A CERTAIN INERTIA HAS CREPT IN TO THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN?

A: THAT I ADMIT.

Q: AND WITHOUT WISHING TO BE RUDE IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THAT PERHAPS A RATHER UNIMAGINATIVE PERSON IS FACED WITH A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN PERSON AND THE CHOICE FOR THE AVERAGE PERSON MIGHT BE RATHER DIFFICULT?

A: IF IT WERE TWO PEOPLE AS DESCRIBED BY YOU WHO WERE BOTH COMING FROM, AS IT WERE NOWHERE, AND RUNNING, THAT WOULD BE ONE THING, BUT PRESIDENT FORD HAS BEEN PRESIDENT FOR TWO YEARS AND TWO OF THE MOST DIFFICULT YEARS WE'VE HAD. WE WERE IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS TWO YEARS AGO. THE PUBLIC AFTER VIETNAM AND WATERGATE HAD LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT. THE INFLATION WAS 12 TO 13 PERCENT. WE WERE GOING INTO A RECESSION, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND OUR POSITION IN THE WORLD HAD ERODED CONSIDERABLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE AND THE WAY IN WHICH THAT ENDED. SO HERE WAS A MAN WHO WAS FACED WITH THE MOST UNBELIEVABLE PROBLEMS AND WHO HAS RESTORED CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT, WHO HAS CUT INFLATION IN HALF, UNEMPLOYMENT IS UP NET 4 MILLION IN THE LAST SIXTEEN

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PAGE 03 LONDON 15970 01 OF 02 061403Z

MONTHS WHICH IS A RECORD. TRUE, WE STILL HAVE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, BUT IT'S PARTLY BECAUSE CONFIDENCE IS RESTORED AND MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE COMING BACK INTO THE LABOUR MARKET, AND PARTICULARLY WOMEN. SO THAT - AND I SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT I THINK THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES VIS-A-VIS OTHER GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD IS A LOT BETTER THAN IT WAS, SO HE HAS A PROVEN RECORD ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, WHICH IS

THE THING IN MY OPINION THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15970 02 OF 02 061400Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 15970

Q: TURNING TO BRITAIN SIR, DO YOU THINK IT'S RIGHT
THAT THE IMF SHOULD NOW BE CONSIDERING GIVING THIS
COUNTRY THE MASSIVE LOAN CONTEMPLATED?

A: WELL THIS IS WHAT THE NATIONS WHO ESTABLISHED THE
FUND SET IT UP FOR WITH JUST FOR THIS KIND OF A
SITUATION AND THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF AND
EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT'S
DETERMINATION TO TAKE THE STEPS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO
RE-ESTABLISH GROWTH AND CONFIDENCE AND EXPRESSED HIS
TOTAL SUPPORT FOR THIS EFFORT AND THE APPLICATION.

Q: IF IT EVER BECAME NECESSARY FOR AMERICA ON HER OWN
AS DISTINCT FROM BEING A MEMBER OF THE IMF TO SUPPORT
BRITAIN FINANCIALLY DO YOU THINK SHE WOULD BE WILLING
TO DO SO?

A: WELL I'LL TELL YOU. THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN
THIS POSITION WITH OTHER NATIONS AND I -- WHAT -- IT'S
TWO BILLION DOLLARS OUT OF THE FIVE THAT THE UNITED
STATES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR - I THINK THAT OUR FEELING

HAS BEEN, AS A NATION, THAT FOR ALL OF US IN THIS
DIFFICULT TIME AS INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, THAT WE SHOULD ACT
TOGETHER AND MOVE TOGETHER AND THIS WAS THE OBJECTIVE
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PAGE 02 LONDON 15970 02 OF 02 061400Z

THEN THAT THIS CONFIDENCE THAT IT COULD BE WORKED
OUT ON THAT BASIS. THEREFORE, WHAT YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT IS THE SPECULATION WHICH IS NOT BEFORE
US AND I SHOULD THINK TO EVADE A DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT
COULD LEND CONFUSION TO THE IMF DISCUSSION FOR AN
APPLICATION.

FYI - TAIL OF LAST ANSWER DOES NOT SEEM TO RELATE TO
QUESTION, BUT THAT IS EXACT TRANSCRIPT.)

Q: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

A: IT'S A PLEASURE.

ARMSTRONG

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